Sacagawea’s Guide to the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Kalie Seaton

March 1, 2011

Pd. 7

I decided to choose the topic of Sacagawea because she was a woman who contributed to the history of the United States. I did not know much about her besides her name. I wanted to a Native American woman was selected because at the time women did not even have the ability to vote. At first I thought a man would have been a better choice because they are stronger and would know the terrain better. I was amazed to learn that she even gave birth on this journey and kept the baby with her while they continued the journey.

In order to conduct my research I used the internet because there was not enough information in the text book. I found many interesting sources that explained about all of her contributions. I learned that she did know the land very well; in fact, she helped them get through two special passes through the mountains that were difficult to navigate. Another source explained how they had so little food that they ate their candles they had brought. Sacagawea found them a special kind of root to eat so they could get their strength back. However, I learned that her most important contribution was just her presence. By traveling with a Native American woman, Lewis and Clark were much less likely to be attacked by Native Americans and lost.

I decided to create a PowerPoint as my visual aid because the students could not only hear my speech but see my information and my special pictures and maps. I included a map of the western United States so the students could see the route that they took and see how difficult it was to get through the Rocky Mountains. I also included some images of Sacagawea herself. I included a special slide comparing and contrasting what the journey was like with Sacagawea and what it could have been without Sacagawea.

My topic definitely deals with the theme of challenges in many ways. The land out west at this time was an unknown frontier with many obstacles and challenges. Thomas Jefferson entrusted Lewis and Clark with exploring this land. Sacagawea was an important key in enabling them to complete this mission. Not only was she a women taking this difficult journey, but on the trip she gave birth to a young child.

Word Count: 408